

## THE PULPIT.

AN ELOQUENT SUNDAY SERMON BY  
THE REV. F. BOYD EDWARDS.

Subject: Personality.

Williamstown, Mass.—The Rev. F. Boyd Edwards, assistant pastor of the South Congregational Church, Brooklyn, who graduated from the college here seven years ago, was the college preacher Sunday. His subject was: "Personality—Its Influence and Secret." The text was from 1 Thessalonians, 5:23: "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." Mr. Edwards said:

Huxley declared that if some great power would guarantee to enable him always to speak what is true and do what is right, on condition of his being turned into a sort of clock and wound up every morning, he would instantly think of one man in a hundred world. Why not? Because we have instinctive aversion to doing violence to the greatest thing in the world. And what is that? Dr. Drummond said "Love." Let us look at it a little.

Consider Helen Keller, born to imprisonment in the dungeon of her own mere selfishness—deaf, blind, mute. Miss Sullivan, by patient and inspired service, released her from that imprisonment, led her slowly out into the light and glory of life. The something which made Miss Sullivan eager to render this beautiful service was love. But in the quality of greatness even that high and beneficent quality is absolutely incomparable with Helen Keller's herself. The greatest thing in the world is personality. Love is but a part of it, supplementing and crowning its other parts, all beauty and majesty of physique, all vigor and grit and courage, all mental keenness, reach, grasp and decision, all the subtle graces of mind and heart, high spiritual vision and deep insight, all purity, dignity and serene poise of spirit. These combine to make what we name personality.

Look about you in a railway carriage, a hotel lobby, a great college grandstand. Your eyes meet a hundred men. The one hundred and first holds it. You may not know who he is, nor ever have seen him before, but straightway you say to yourself, he is somebody. Something about him distinguishes him, gives him a manifest significance, like the evident value of a gold coin. That something is personality and it is self-revealing. Take Webster, for instance. They said when he walked in Beacon street the houses looked smaller. Sidney Smith called him the greatest living life, because no body could possibly be so great as he looked. Edward Everett declared that when he was earnestly speaking sparks of fire leaped in his eyes. A bust of him, exhibited by a European sculptor, was mistaken for a head of Jove. Or note how Emerson says that "William of Orange won a subject away from the King of France every time he put off his hat," so noble was his bearing. A Boston newspaper reported that on a certain day Washington street was dark and gloomy, until Phillips Brooks passed, whereupon the brightness returned. One might have profited almost as much by a look into Emerson's face as by reading his books. Just a glimpse of Napoleon at the hour of battle doubled the fighting force of those who saw him. Often one can tell by the author's likeness in the frontispiece of a book whether it's worth while to go any further. The halo in art is far more than a mechanical contrivance to denote sainthood. It witnesses to the fact that true men carry an atmosphere; they are fairly luminous. The captain of an athletic team, if well chosen, takes rank not by virtue of superior playing or technical knowledge of the game, but because there is about him a quality which makes his vim and spirit contagious.

Church committees looking for a new minister pass by a score of possible eligibles and choose the twenty-first. The others were as good preachers, as thorough scholars, as faithful pastors, but the elect one possesses this rare and compelling something we call magnetism, which is but a vague term indicating personality. The speaker who possesses it often influences his audience almost as much, while he stands silent before them for a moment, as during the hour of his speaking. This is the quality which accounts for the saying: "You have to like Mr. Roosevelt after you have met him." Personality!—no other creation equals or approaches it. Indeed, when Jehovah accented Moses as His ambassador to the court of Pharaoh, He commanded as the chief authority: "Tell him I am sent you."

Now, then, since personality is the greatest thing in the world, what is the chief duty of man? I answer, deliberately, to honor, develop, express and invest that personality. This is not egotistic and selfish. God gave man this personality as his tool, the finest, noblest, chief implement with which to make his mark on the world, serve his kind and honor his Maker. When the old bishop of the Methodist Church was examining a group of candidates for the ministry, he asked them: "Are you willing to be a nobody in Christ's service?" And every last one of them plausibly (as he thought) answered yes. "Then you're a poor lot!" exclaimed the bishop. And so were they. That is a kind of humility which is not Christian, because it is not only unproductive, but contemptible. Christ's man should be willing to take any humble station, but wherever he may be, always determined by God's grace so to live, to labor, to fight, and to pray that as the servant of the Most High he shall weigh every ounce he can, strike blows that hit hard, and mean to his time all that he can possibly signify.

Being a Christian man is being all a man can be. Holiness is near to holiness, which means health, and holiness close to holiness, which means integrity, soundness, completeness. Christian life is not

standing up, but growing up; not lopping off, but loosing up. Its true note is not ascetic, but athletic, and when Christ announced that He came that men might have life more abundantly, He did not mean longer life, but life overflowing, rich in content and extent, with far horizons and wide outlook. Just this Browning emphasizes when he says:

God gives each man one life, like a lamp. Then gives that lamp due measure of oil. Lamp-lighted, hold high; wave wide.

All very fine, you say, for the man who happens to have been endowed with personality! But how about the hundred men who do not strike an observer as being somebody, who haven't the gift of personal magnetism? Well, my answer is that personality is not all endowment; it may be acquired, or more accurately yet, developed. When the spring comes and the sun's rays fall more warmly, the grass and leaves begin to grow. There are seeds in the ground and life-dormant and waiting to be stirred. The sun might shine a million years, hot as midsummer, and without those seeds lying there waiting, no fair garment of verdure would ever clothe the bare, brown body of earth. And vice versa. Just so, we notice now and again a former stenographer and private secretary to presidents becomes a Cabinet officer. Partly it is from native endowment, and partly from the wakening influence of association with great men. Character is not taught, but caught; not fully inborn, nor springing, full armed, like Minerva from Jove's head, but awakened, roused, kindled by the contagious touch of another of a little longer development, and maybe, of larger growth.

Yet after all, this is the fine fundamental truth of life. Every man is of unique value, has a rare gleam of virtue for his own, his point of view, his individual work and message, which no other man can have had. His business in life is to live that out, build it up, utter it, make it effective. How shall he do it? By getting out where the sun can strike down to those seeds that are waiting in him; that means: make helpful friendships, listen to wise teachers, keep high company with men who have deeps and heights about them. Read Paul's prayer written to the men in Thessalonica: "The very God of peace sanctify you wholly (set you apart, distinguish you in every great way), and I pray God your whole body, soul and spirit be kept without blemish even in the presence of Christ. Faithful is he who hath promised, who also will do it." Just to this point was Emerson speaking when he said: "Follow God, and where you go men shall think they walk in hallowed cathedrals." Phillips Brooks puts it: "The influence of a man whose heart God hath touched is like a breeze of fresh air let into a heated and stifling room." You are a lamp of three wicks—body, soul (mind) and spirit. Let God light them (most likely He has already); now you turn them up; keep them trimmed, let them blaze whenever you are throwing out your cheer, your light, your beacon message in your time. Then, "as one flame kindleth another nor growth less thereby," so shall your life kindle, awaken, rouse others.

In every-day terms, what does it mean? My body; honor it, build it up, keep it undishonored. By noble uses, make it to become a sanctuary. Build these more stately mansions, oh my soul. While the swift seasons roll, Leave thy low vaulted past. Let each new temple nobler than the last, Shut thee from heaven by a dome more vast, Till thou at length art free, Leaving thine outgrown shell By life's unresting sea.

My mind; meditate, store it with true thoughts, pure thoughts, thoughts fit to treasure up; keep it company with the noblest men of the ages whose wisdom, vision and noble experience may be made my own by an hour's reading every day; let me prepare myself to recognize, appreciate, respond to and succeed the truest, most devoted and helpful spirits of all the days past and present, and finally keep my eyes on the stainless peaks where Christ is.

My spirit; how great a word it is! All generous impulses, all chivalrous motives, all noble aspirations, all love of beauty and truth and goodness; every hatred of weakness and wrong, every fine portrait of memory and ideal. Oh, match this spirit with all the best about you; open it to Him who knows what is in man, and who alone has grace to bestow and loving power of mastery to develop your unawakened best. And always remember how He reckons in the yearnings, the unuttered and unutterable aspirations there: All instincts immature, all purposes unsure. That weighed not as his work, yet swelled the man's amount, Thoughts hardly to be packed into a single fancy that broke through language and escaped. All I could never be, all men ignored in me, This I was worth to him. Whose wheel the pitcher shaped.

Special Anointings. If Jesus was anointed to preach the gospel, how much more do we in these modern times need a special touch of the Spirit of God for this work! I believe one ought not to teach a Sunday-school lesson, or sing a song, much less preach a sermon, without waiting for a special anointing of the Holy Spirit of God. It is this experience which has made men great in the past. It was the secret of Finney's power, and it will be the secret of the power of anyone who lives to-day. Each day's needs, writes J. Wilbur Chapman, require the daily anointing which the quiet hour supplies.

When Every Man Must Stand Alone. Whoever will go to heaven must have faith of his own. In Gideon's camp every soldier had his own pitcher; among Solomon's men of war, and every one wore his own sword; and these were they that got the victories. The five wise virgins had every one oil in her lamp; and only these went in with the bridegroom. Another's eating of dainty meat makes thee none the fatter.—T. Adams.

## BUFFALO MCKINLEY MONUMENT

To Be Dedicated During "Old-Home Week," September 5.

The beautiful white marble shaft erected by the State of New York in Niagara Square, Buffalo, N. Y., to the memory of President McKinley, is to be formally dedicated Thursday, September 5, and the event will be the central feature of Buffalo's Old-Home Week, September 1 to 7. Former residents of Buffalo and the public at large are cordially invited to attend the dedication and the gay carnival that will run all the week.



The McKinley monument was planned and executed under the direction of a commission of prominent men at a cost of over \$150,000.

Buffalo's Old-Home Week will be a succession of civic and military pageantry, carnival, sports and games, and the electric city will be ablaze with twinkling lights and patriotic decorations. Former residents of Buffalo are asked to send their names and addresses to James W. Greene, chairman Old-Home Week Committee, Buffalo, N. Y. A beautiful souvenir invitation will be mailed to each. The railroads will offer excursion rates to and returning from Buffalo.

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None are secure from desperation, few from subtlety.—Byron.

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Proverbs and Phrases.

There is no making pancakes without breaking the eggs.—Italian.

A man can know nothing of mankind without knowing something of himself.—Lord Beaconsfield.

Meat is much, but manners are more.—French.

Who seeks what he should not, finds what he would not.—German.

It is not always May.—Longfellow.

Tired Backs.

The kidneys have a great work to do in keeping the blood pure. When they get out of order it causes backache, headaches, dizziness, languor and distressing urinary troubles. Keep the kidneys well and all these sufferings will be saved you.

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Brown— Lucky dog! I reached

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